CHRISTIAN STATESMAN

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OUR MODERN MARRIAGE MUDDLE

S.P.T.S LIBRARY

REV. FRANK H. LATHOM, D.D.

We hear a lot about modern marriages going on the rocks these days. Easy marriage and easy divorce have been assailed. Statistics are quoted to show the frequency of the breakdown of the marriage vows. It does not add up to a very pretty picture. It even strikes alarm in the hearts of some. We are sometimes led to believe that if the modern trend continues for a few more years the marriages that succeed will be less than those that fail. If the home is still the foundation of our church, state, and national life, then we do well to consider this basic problem of marriage, and modern home life.

Not a New Problem

History shows that this is not a new problem by any means. The Hebrews dealt with this problem as far back as their history goes, and that is a good many thousand years. Abraham, the father of the faithful, had a problem in his own home. Social customs in regard to marriage and the home were quite different in those days. But the problem was basically the same as in our day. A third person in any home can always cause a lot of trouble between husband and wife. Jealousy in many forms always lurks near any home and must be guarded against at all times. It still stands high on the list of home-wreckers.

Moses had to deal with this problem in his day. He allowed a man to write out a bill of divorcement on certain grounds and thus to put away his wife. Jesus, referring to this practice, said it was because of the "hardness of men's hearts." There must still be lots of hardness of hearts in our country today.

Christianity has long been interested in this problem. The Apostle to the Gentiles, Paul, had a good deal to say on this subject. He exhorted husbands to love their wives, and wives were to love and respect their husbands. This has been the Christian basis for true marriage through the years. Jesus frowned upon divorce except in extreme cases, and evidently did not approve of divorced people remarrying. At least he knew what would happen if divorce became too easy and too common. We do well to follow his teachings on this matter in our day.

Conditions in Our Day

It is said that you can prove anything from statistics. Perhaps we should be more careful in the way we use our so-called facts and figures. Nevertheless they must throw some light on present day conditions and trends in this all-important field of human relations.

According to these general statistics about one marriage in every three ends in divorce in our land today. In some areas it is a little higher than that, and in some it is lower. In Beaver County, Pennsylvania, where the author of this article lives, the records for the last ten years show 17,463 marriages and 3,619 divorces, which figures out about one divorce for every 4.82 marriages.

The cost of each divorce in this area is about $250.00 which runs into quite a sum even in a year's time. It is interesting to note that divorces usually increase with financial prosperity. I suppose it is somewhat of a luxury for some people to be able to get rid of former mates and to get new ones. This may be part of the reason for so many divorces among motion picture stars. It might also indicate that there would be an even higher divorce rate in our land if more people could afford them. In other words, many marriages

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THE OCTOPUS

REV. DELBER H. ELLIOTT, D.D.

A common species of the octopus has eight arms which reach out in eight different directions for its prey. When it fastens an arm upon its victim it is difficult to pry it loose. The most persistent and deadly octopus we know of is the liquor traffic. Too little effort on a national scale is being made to destroy it. Instead of declaring a war of extermination upon the beast or endeavoring to chop off its tentacles, we protect it, coddle it and tell it to be a nice octopus, while we treat it as a bona fide member of the family. In the meantime it contentedly sucks the blood of our people and our institutions.

These eight arms are reaching out into eight different spheres of operation.

First, *the children.* We mention them first because they are helpless in defending themselves. But the octopus considers them important enough to assign one of its arms to them. It baits them with rum flavored candies and liquor scented toothpaste. The latest effort to snare them is with "pony bottles" which look, fizz and taste like beer. While dad and mother drink real beer the children are led to believe they are drinking the same. This brave octopus is no respecter of children.

A second arm is reaching out for the *young people.* We are glad for certain safeguards here prescribed by law. In 32 states intoxicating beverages cannot be sold to young people under 21 years of age. The legal age in New York state is 18. Because of the shocking increase in drinking by teenagers, a vigorous fight is being waged to raise the limit to 21. The liquor interests are concerned in the age level in the various states since millions of liquor dollars are at stake. The octopus is interested in reducing the age limit to younger years.

Another arm is working on *the family.* The beer advertising over radio and television is perhaps the most lucrative in the whole industry. Here all members of the family are reached together. All of us are interested in the daily news. But how often we are interrupted with: "More news in just a moment" and the moment expands into minutes while we hear: "It is brewed with pure spring water"; "It outsells because it excels"; "Be sure to lay in your supply for the holiday".

Then the family gathers before the television. Not only do we hear the smooth tongued salesman but we see the decorated bottles, the frothy foam and the imbibing of so-called high society. We join wholeheartedly with those members of Congress who are chopping away at the tentacles of liquor advertising.

A fourth arm of the beast is working on *the house-wife.* She must be persuaded that "beer belongs". When she makes up her shopping list it must include the favorite brand of beer. For her convenience she will be provided a recipe book that tells how to give the rum flavor to her pies and puddings.

When it comes to entertaining, many small favors are provided for her guests to remind them that the drink is the main attraction, if not the prime purpose of the party.

A fifth arm reaches out for *the motorist.* Take Seagram Distillers word for it: "Tonight when it's 'One for the Road' be sure to make it coffee". How considerate! Drink all you want! If you still have room, a cup of coffee will assure you a safe trip home. Too many drivers are following that kind of nonsense.

The latest boon to autoists is a new type refrigerator to be installed under the hood of all kinds of motor vehicles to provide an all day's supply of drink, including six twelve ounce cans of beer. This will enable the motorists to keep stewed all the way along. Just throw the empty cans along the highway!

The traveling public is another segment of society which must be accommodated. So the cross-country passenger trains carry a miniature tavern to keep the customers happy. On a crowded train in order to find a seat, I was obliged to ride in a section of one of these rolling taverns. I saw men and women ride for hours sipping at their liquor glass after glass, throughout the entire journey.

Now the airplanes, despite the protests of the stewardesses and many passengers, are serving liquor. The American Airlines serves liquor in flights of more than four hours duration. The United Airlines follows the same practice. The Capital Airlines is the only one of the five lines operating between Chicago and New York which does not serve liquor on any of its flights. All air coach flights so far have no liquor served on any of their flights.

The advertising agencies are held by another of these octopus tentacles. Newspapers, bill boards and magazines collect their millions in advertising all kinds of liquor. They prey upon the vices of the people for money. They defend themselves on the ground of legality and totally ignore the issue of morality.

Thank God not all are like that. 25,000,000 Americans read newspapers which refuse all liquor advertising. Among these are such influential dailies

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A Summary Of The Fundamental Purposes And Work Of The National Reform Association

The National Reform Association was organized in 1863 specifically for the purpose of maintaining the *Christian features* in the American government and to promote needed reforms in the action of the government touching the *Sabbath*, the *institution* of the *family*, the *religious element* in *education*, the *oath* and *public morality* as affected by the *liquor traffic* and other *kindred evils*.

The Underlying Principle

The National Reform Association believes in the Christian philosophy of civil government and opposes the secular view. It believes that the acknowledgments "Under God" and "In God We Trust" expressed in the flag salute and on our coins and postage stamps ought to be expressed also in our national Constitution. The Association is therefore committed to securing such an amendment to the Constitution of the United States as will declare the nation's allegiance to Jesus Christ and its acceptance of the moral laws of the Christian religion so as to indicate in our fundamental law that this *is* a Christian nation, thus placing all the laws, institutions and usages of our government on an undeniably legal basis in the fundamental law of our land.

The Scope of Its Work

The National Reform Association labors along the entire reform front. It fights the liquor traffic, liquor advertising, defends the Christian Sabbath, labors for Bible reading in the public schools, opposes gambling, seeks to safeguard the institution of the family, presents the Prince of Peace as the only adequate solution to the problem of peace for the world, doing all, that Christ may have the preeminence. It produces reliable, up-to-date literature dealing with these various objectives.

Present Day Emphasis Endangering Everything We Hold Sacred and Dear

The National Reform Association regards the mistaken and distorted present day emphasis on separation of religion from the state as endangering everything we hold sacred and dear in America, and as a far departure from what the founding fathers had in mind. The present day emphasis confuses the "church" and "religion" and makes them one and the same. The founding fathers were opposed to an established church. It was not their idea, however, to keep religion out of government, but rather to keep a church from dominating government. The present emphasis would separate religion from the state and eliminate the existing Christian features in the American government. Even now, such emphasis has seriously drained political morality.

A Case in Point

The National Reform Association regards it as a most peculiar situation that with increasing crime, violence and juvenile delinquency sweeping across our nation, our courts should declare that it is unconstitutional to teach a child in the public schools about God and the things God stands for. It has not been declared unconstitutional to teach him there is no God. Is this the America the founding fathers dreamed of? We think not.

A Watchman on the Wall

The National Reform Association was established to combat such trends and to warn of such dangers. Its program calls for educating, agitating, participating and legislating. It believes that the best in American tradition is rooted in Christianity, and that the Christian features in our national life must be maintained. It believes that it is un-American not to maintain them.

Need for Financial Support

The National Reform Association has an aggressive, forward-moving program. It prints well over a million pages of literature a year. Our printing costs run from $3,000 to $6,000 annually. But with all this, the surface isn't even being scratched. A Davidson Dual Offset Duplicator Press and a Model A-20 Vari-Typer has just recently been made available for the use of the National Reform Association. This equipment should enable us to greatly increase the volume of our literature within the limits of available funds. It is hoped that in the very near future we will be able to begin producing much of our literature ourselves and to multiply our output by many fold. There is a great need today for literature dealing with the basic and primary principles of Christian Citizenship, Christian Civil Government, and with all the various objectives in the field of National Reform. Some of the literature published back over the years by the National Reform Association is basic and timeless. It needs to be republished for our day. This is one of the things we hope this equipment will enable us to do. Your contributions are needed to help maintain and expand this vital program.

HELP KEEP THE AMERICAN WAY CHRISTIAN — SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
to
THE NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION
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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY

The family as an institution is an absolute necessity to the welfare of the human race. There cannot be true civilization nor can there be true progress toward higher and better things for human society without the Scriptural form of the family.

The Bible teaches that in the beginning God made man male and female, and said, "for this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother and cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh." This statement from the Word of God has had great influence throughout Christendom in giving character to the family, in preserving its purity and integrity, and in contributing thereby to the happiness and welfare of mankind.

In this day of loose marriages, with one out of every three in this country ending in divorce, a return is desperately needed to the concept of the institution of marriage as set forth in the Word of God.

The age in which we are living today has drifted far from the Biblical idea of the family. This is a day of loose marriages and broken covenants. Not "Until death do us part", but "Until the honeymoon is over" seems to be the extent to which many consider the marriage vows obligatory. All too often the idea of permanency is lacking. It may be fashionable in marriage to put off last year's design for this year's model, but it is not Christian. It is not according to God's plan.

The family is a divine institution, fundamental to society and to progress in civilization. A rising divorce rate is indicative of a decadent society.

With this problem as with every other moral problem, the words of Christ are final. He said, when questioned on the matter of divorce, "have ye not read, that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and the two shall become one flesh? so that they are no more two, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Two thirds of our marriages still hold. Thank God for that. Marriages which are cemented in the bond of love and founded on the Rock Christ Jesus do not fall apart amid the tempests and trials of life. They hold, and they become stronger with the passing years because they are founded upon the Rock.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION AND ADVERTISING IN 1956

Complete data is not yet available regarding the consumption and advertising of alcoholic beverages in 1956. Some information, however, has been released. The following facts have been gleaned principally from articles appearing in recent issues of *Advertising Age*.

The consumption of *distilled spirits* jumped to a total of 215,225,286 gallons, an increase of 7.8% over consumption in 1955. Bottling of the same increased 9.7% over the preceding year to reach 195,900,000 gallons. Of this total, 6.1% was vodka, which had a percentage growth in bottling of 70.4%, the largest percentage growth of any liquor in bottling.

A total of $65,837,000 was spent in newspaper advertising of alcoholic beverages, an increase of 10.8% over the 1955 expenditure. Of this total, $48,072,000 was for liquor, an increase of 17.1%, $16,010,000 was for beer, a decrease of 5.9%, and $1,755,000 was for wine, an increase of 31.6% from 1955. In magazine advertising the distillers spent $27,661,849 (beer and wine not included), an increase of 1.7% over that spent the preceding year. These figures do not include the cost of producing the ads.

Among the top 200 TV spot advertisers in 1956 were twenty-two brewing companies and one wine company. The total TV expenditure for spot ads for alcoholic beverages in 1956 was $34,237,000. Of this sum, $30,427,000 was for beer and ale and $3,810,000 was for wine. Of the top 100 magazine and broadcast advertisers in 1956, five were distillers or brewers.

GRATIFYING DEMAND FOR NEW CRUSADE BROCHURES

The demand for the new, four page "Crusade Against Liquor Advertising and Beercasting" Brochure, published by the National Reform Association is most gratifying. The initial 10,000 which came from the press early in January have been completely exhausted and the second 10,000 printed toward the end of February are moving fast with orders, which have ranged from single copies to five thousand copies, coming from far and wide across the nation.

The voice of protest against liquor advertising which this Brochure was designed to arouse must be more than a whisper in a closed room. It must be a shout from the house tops, a sustained voice

of protest with an ever increasing volume that will reverberate back and forth across this nation until the huckstering of beverage alcohol is completely silenced by an aroused and indignant public sentiment.

This Crusade must be sustained. It must not be allowed to become a hit and run affair. The advertising of beverage alcohol goes on continually, hour after hour, day after day, week after week, month after month, year in and year out. It is going to go on that way just as long as the Christian people in America will permit it. Now is the time for action. Help prepare the way for the passage in Congress of the Langer (S. 582) and Siler (H.R. 4835) bills against alcoholic beverage advertising by stirring up at home, at the grass roots, a tidal wave of protest that will not subside until the voice of the beverage alcohol advertiser is no longer heard in the land. Send 10¢ to The National Reform Association, 209 Ninth St., Pittsburgh 22, Pa., for a sample copy of the Crusade Brochure.

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS GOES WET

Word comes to us from the Illinois Temperance Council that Hon. John S. Knight, publisher, and his Board of Directors have seen fit to break the more than 50 year stand of the Chicago Daily News which has all this time so bravely refused to accept any alcoholic beverage advertising in its columns. A tear sheet from the March 14, 1957 issue carried a full page beer ad in color.

The Chicago Daily News is one of the newspapers we have featured in our Crusade Against Liquor Advertising Brochures as an example of a newspaper with large circulation which refused to accept alcoholic beverage advertising. It is with deep regret that we now find it necessary to report to our readers that this publication has deserted the dry camp, and is therefore being removed from our list of publications to be commended for their policy on this matter.

We urge our readers to write a militant but kindly protest to *Hon. John S. Knight, Publisher, Chicago Daily News, Chicago, Illinois,* expressing the keen disappointment felt and the deep sorrow of our hearts over this change of policy.

Such a letter could acknowledge the realization that publishers of newspapers are under tremendous pressure to accept such advertising, but should stress the fact that this type of advertising is offensive to millions upon millions of temperance minded people throughout our land.

As Fred D. L. Squires, President of the Illinois Temperance Council wrote in his letter, "A protest now will at least aid in revealing to the whole people of Chicago and the nation at large, how profoundly good citizens feel in this matter. Whatever the result, such a protest, individual and multiple, cannot fail to cause an arrest of thought throughout Chicagoland and reverberate throughout America."

NATIONAL REFORM LIQUOR FACTS FOLDER

For many years the National Reform Association has specialized in preparing and publishing up-to-date, arresting facts and figures on various phases of the liquor problem.

To attract attention and thus secure as wide a reading as possible, this factual material has been printed in the form of a colorful four-page folder, entitled, "Facts About Intoxicating Liquors And What They're Doing To America."

These Facts Folders have created a wide interest and have been used far and wide across the nation. Well over two million copies have been printed to date. Their purpose is to create a stronger public sentiment and willingness to act, based upon the scientific facts regarding the consumption of alcoholic beverages, and regarding the liquor traffic. They are prepared in the belief that by covering America with reliable up-to-date literature telling the truth about alcoholic beverages, unveiling their true nature and deglamorizing the most unscientific social practice of drinking them, ultimately a public opinion can be developed that will act upon the facts and abolish this evil.

The Facts Folders have been developed with a view to their being used not only by churches and other organizations for community-wide distribution, but also for use in the public schools where they are finding a ready acceptance. They serve as a most helpful tool to be used by teachers in giving instruction regarding the effects of alcoholic beverages on the human system. Teachers appreciate the up-to-date facts and figures they contain, information they would have to spend many hours in careful research to obtain elsewhere were it not made available for them in this brief and attractive form. Many teachers would not know where to turn to obtain this information were it not provided for them.

The 1957 edition of the Facts Folders containing figures for the year 1955, the latest available, is now obtainable. Since the first of January 75,000 copies have been printed on order. This edition is printed in medium blue and black on white stock and is very attractive. The content on pages one, two, three and the bottom half of four is general and national in character. The upper half of page four contains state information. As explained below, they may be obtained with data on page four for any state. This feature of the Facts Folders makes them doubly useful. They give, not only the national picture, but bring things close to home by presenting information pertaining to the state for which the Folder was prepared. Through the cooperation of

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the W.C.T.U. of the states of Michigan and Pennsylvania, Facts Folders have been prepared for each of these states this year.

As intimated above, the Facts Folders may be obtained with information on page four for any state provided orders for any one state total 10,000 or more. The way they are usually handled is for some organization within a state to sponsor their use in that state. Any organization sponsoring the Facts Folders for any state may obtain them with the imprint of the sponsoring organization on page four, at the rate of $15.00 per thousand in quantities of 10,000 or more per order. They are shipped express prepaid. About four weeks should be allowed for preparing, printing and shipping. Copies of the Michigan or Pennsylvania Folders may be obtained as samples by writing to

THE NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION
209 Ninth St., Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

KEEPING HOLY THE SABBATH

In the good old days, we Americans observed Sunday in the Christian tradition.

But how times have changed!

In the last 15 years, Sunday has become just another working day to an appalling number of persons.

With six other days to choose from, why do women pick Sunday to clean house and wash clothes? Why do men cut the grass, wash the family car, paint and repair that day?

Call me a "blue-nose" if you want to. I still think it should be a day set aside for church attendance and rest.

The nation is plagued by juvenile delinquency. Is it strange that children misbehave and disobey the laws of society when their own parents have such a disregard for the laws of God?

The Ten Commandments order man to "Remember to Keep Holy the Sabbath Day."

Follow Path of Parents

Children grow up in the shadow of their parents' habits. The youngsters follow the path their parents set.

The home has the most lasting effect on the child's future life. Ask the experts.

If parents never enter a church door, the youngsters are likely to do the same.

We are the most blessed country on the earth with our freedom, our wealth, our almost unbelievable prosperity and opportunity to make good.

Do We Deserve It?

What are we doing to deserve such plenty?

Man to be moral must believe in God. Too many of us are smothering this belief and becoming modern pagans.

When faith in the existence of a Divinity disappears, moral decay finds fertile soil.

Our Bill of Rights and Constitution were written by the nation's Founding Fathers. They drew the beliefs in human dignity and rights that these documents contain from the depths of their religious faith.

Should we ignore this faith, one day we may denounce these beliefs. Knock out the foundation and the building falls.

Pittsburgh Spotlight
Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, Aug. 31, 1956
By Edward J. Furey

(The article above was not written by a minister or professional reformer. It was written by a newspaper man who writes a regular column for the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, but who is concerned about the growing lack of concern for the Christian Sabbath in American life.)

BUCKING SLOT MACHINES

In answer to the question, "Will bad luck slow up a gambler?" Joseph Whitney, consultant, and columnist for the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph wrote in the August 31, 1956 issue:

"Usually not. A gambler hopes to get something for nothing, and the longer he goes without winning, the more he tends to continue gambling to recoup his losses. In a recent experiment at Northwestern University, 350 students played slot machines, rigged to pay off eight straight times down to one in eight pulls. No machine would pay anything after the eighth pull. Students whose machines paid off but once in the first eight pulls kept pulling longer than those who were paid more than once."

More than $20,000,000,000 is spent annually in gambling in America because about fifty percent of our adult population have never learned that the only way to win with gambling is not to play.

THE OCTOPUS

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as The Kansas City Morning Star and The Evening Times, the Des Moines Register and the Evening Tribune, The Minneapolis Morning Tribune and Evening Star. Then there is the Frank E. Gannett chain of ten influential dailies which have not sold themselves to mammon.

The Moderationist is reserved for arm number eight. He is the traffic's most valued customer. He is against the toper, the drunkard and all who "can't handle their liquor". He has no sympathy with those who "drink too much" though he has not been able to define how much too much is.

The latest "Business Men's Research" says that there are in the United States 65 million drinkers: 5 million alcoholics; and 20 millions who sometimes drink to excess. All of these started as moderationists with no intention of drinking "too much".

The only ones whom this octopus cannot touch are those who practice temperance in all things helpful and total abstinence in all things harmful.

OUR MODERN MARRIAGE MUDDLE

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may be failures even though they do not end in divorce. On the other hand marriages that do remain successful may deserve more credit on the part of husbands and wives.

A Marriage Clinic

Some two years ago a marriage clinic sponsored by the county council of churches was set up in the Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania area. The panel for this clinic is composed of a medical doctor, a lawyer, and a clergyman. Once a month this panel meets to consider cases sent in by appointment from those who know about such cases. The main purpose of this clinic is to furnish sympathetic and intelligent understanding of each case with the hope of sparing them from the divorce courts. Many cases come to this clinic each year. Some are too far gone to be helped much. Others have reconsidered their differences and returned for further counseling. Some homes have been saved and placed on a better footing.

As a member of this panel for this clinic I have been impressed with certain recurring facts. One is the need for PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING. Too many young people rush into marriage with little or no knowledge of what they are getting into. The prevalent idea of love is the romantic type such as you read about in books or see filmed for the movies. It's the old idea presented in the fairy story where the couple gets married and "lives happily ever after."

The Biblical concept of love as set forth in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians is almost unheard of today. Few young people know anything about a love that "suffers long and is kind", love that "envieth not . . . vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil . . . beareth all things, believeth all things, endureth all things."

The cause for most cases coming to our clinic is incompatibility. But what makes for incompatibility? Most of it is pure selfishness. People think they can get married and go on living their own lives with no regard for the feelings of their mate. Marriage seems to change some young men from romantic, solicitous, courteous beings to regular "Bluebeards" with the attitude of the dictator. They expect their young wives to suffer all kinds of indigities at their hands and still to love them passionately. They expect the little woman to remain at home and spend the entire day making things comfortable for them while they have other "affairs" on the side. It's amazing to me how absolutely brutal and beastly some young people can become so soon after the marriage vows are taken.

Of course the young men are not the only offenders. Many young women seem to have no idea of thrift and industry in the home. They look upon marriage as a freedom from work. They can sleep in, or take afternoon naps, and then nag their husbands in the evening to take them places and keep them entertained. Some of them can spend the family income much faster than the husband can make it. When bills begin to pile up and creditors begin to make threats and demands it puts a real pressure on the married couple. It often leads to arguments and disputes within the household. Sometimes these quarrels lead to blows, and blows usually lead to some kind of quick separation, at least for a season.

What Is the Remedy?

We all know there is no quick, easy, or cheap remedy for our muddled marriages. It has been said that a true marriage is made in heaven. Perhaps that means that preparation for marriage begins long before a child is born. Heritage, background, culture, religion has a lot to do with any marriage. No person has any say about where or to whom he will be born. Some people are born into homes where they have at least two strikes against them at birth. Temperament and training, two things most important to compatibility, are often lacking, or of the wrong kind. It is most sad to see people well along in adult life with children of their own, and they themselves without the ABC's of Christian living. To try to unite some people in marriage is like trying to unite oil and water. Other attempted unions only make for explosions. We can never expect to have happy homes where husband and wife are united in true love if there is nothing of the spirit of God present. Only through the common demands of confession, repentance, and forgiveness can two people continue on through life without unbearable friction.

Homes already established must set better examples for children to follow. Schools should help in this greatest enterprise of life upon earth in trying to educate and train children to be worthwhile members of a household. The church must bear its portion of this responsibility. Some churches are doing a fair job and are seeing the results. Others are leaving it almost entirely to the home and the state. One of the most important things which any of us can do is to help set up and keep high moral standards in our own lives and in our whole of society. Public opinion carries a lot of weight in this land. If society winks at sin it soon falls into decay, but if society demands certain moral standards it makes it much easier for all who are trying to usher in a better day.

I am persuaded that only the spirit of Christ can prevail in helping us save the American home. We need to forget a lot of less important things and get busy on this all-important problem. It's not a matter of choice, it's a matter of life and death. Either we build Christian homes and live, or we fail and perish.

MAY 23 1957

From the Study Window

DAVID M. CARSON

Head of the Department of Political Science, Geneva College

Living by the Rules

Mr. Gustave Schramm, the president judge of the Juvenile Court of Allegheny County, spoke on Vocational Guidance Day at Geneva this spring. Out of his experiences with children who were making (or being given) a wrong start in life, he offered us guidance for making a right start.

Of the three points of his counsel, there was one I would like to use as a basis for this column: life must be lived by the rules. There are some rules, Judge Schramm said, which are only a matter of convenience. The British drive on the left side of the street, we on the right—it is wise for everyone in a given area to agree, but it doesn't make much difference which we decide. But there are other rules which are basic, which come, as Judge Schramm said, from the Good Book. He reminded us that to make a good start in life, we have to learn to live by the rules.

This issue of the *Christian Statesman* is devoted to the home. Certainly training in rules, in standards of right and wrong, is a major contribution of the home to society.

Society can be society only because of rules. We could not live with each other at all if we did not agree on some basic principles of conduct. Under such conditions, as Thomas Hobbes said, "The life of man is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, short." These rules cannot be enforced unless there is a general agreement to live by them. Laws against theft could not last if all of us were thieves. Where can these basic principles of moral conduct best be learned? In the home.

When the home fails to establish such standards, it places a great burden on society. Judge Schramm recounted his experience with some boys, from "good" backgrounds, who were in trouble for having stolen tires, during the Second World War when tires were in short supply. One of the fathers having winked at four new tires on the family car implied in a conference with the judge, that he thought it all rather clever. No wonder the boy saw little wrong in it.

One remembers, too, an older and more familiar example. David, the Hebrew king, broke the rules His desire for Bathsheba and the means he chose to obtain her, flouted two of the most basic principles of moral law. Nathan, the prophet and David's friend, had the unhappy task of reminding David of his sin and of its punishment. "Now therefore," said the prophet, "the sword shall never depart from thy house." The prophecy came tragically true. Amnon died a violent death at the plotting of his brother Absalom. Absalom died a violent death during a conspiracy against his father, David Adonijah died a violent death at the hands of his brother Solomon. Not only David's own family, but the whole kingdom also, was torn by the sword.

On the other hand we can be grateful for families who provide the splendid security of standards families who teach and live in terms of right and wrong. It is a personal heritage to which we look back with gratitude; it is a debt all of society owes to our forefathers. Though Washington almost certainly never cut down a cherry tree, his legendary remark, "Father, I cannot tell a lie," symbolic of the uprightness of his conduct.

What does all this demand of the home? First of all, self-discipline—to live by the rules ourselves both in public and in private. Secondly, the recognition that self-discipline is illusory unless it discipline under God; we must therefore seek the convicting, the enlightening, the strengthening of the Holy Spirit as we try to live by God's rules.

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION (incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania),

FORM OF BEQUEST

the sum of ..... dollars ( )

(In case a testator wishes to leave some particular asset or piece of property instead of a sum of money he can do so by inserting a clear and sufficient description of it in place of words "the sum of," etc.)